



GEORGINA

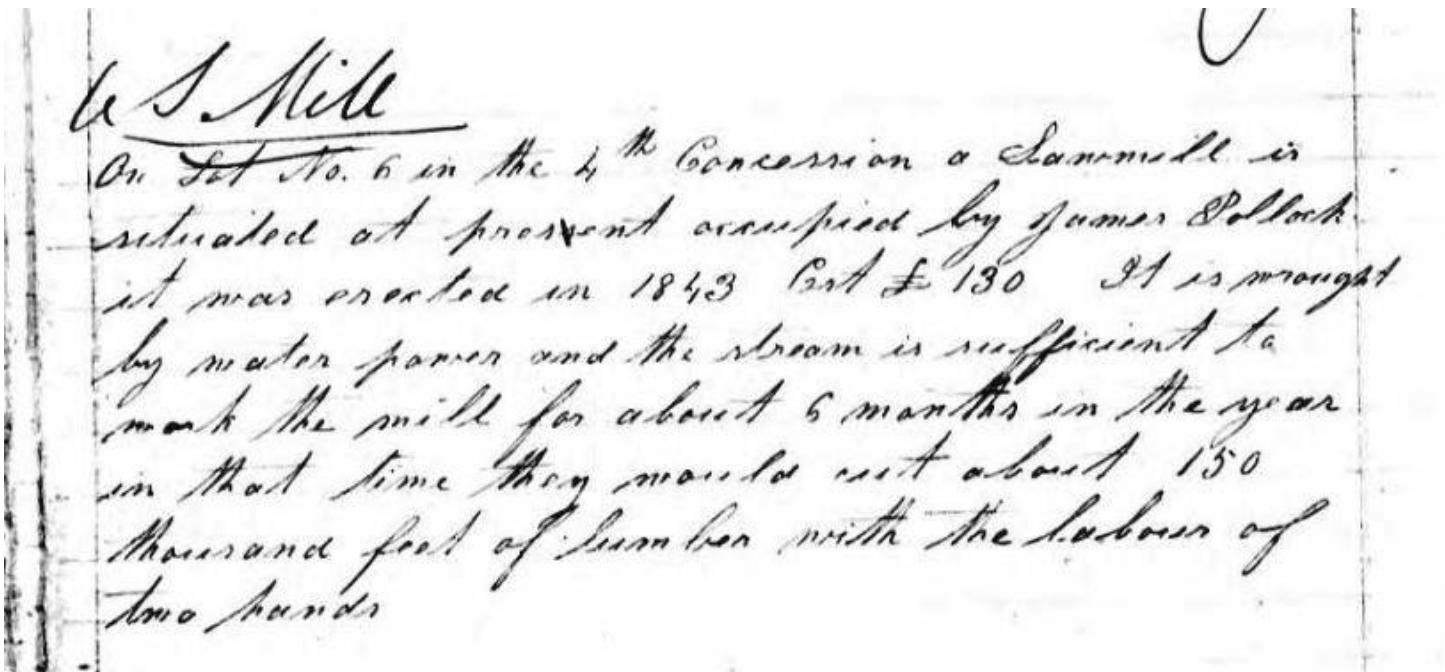
North Gwillimbury Sawmills

From its earliest years, the administrators of the province assessed each district of its acreage cultivated and not, population, number of houses, carriages, general stores and mills. The first mention of a sawmill in North Gwillimbury Township appeared on one of these assessments. It is entitled:

General Assessment of rateable property in the Home District taken from the several assessment rolls of the Town and respective Townships therein for the year 1827.

The number of sawmills fluctuates between one and zero until 1839 when three sawmills are listed.

The census of 1852 provides us with descriptions of three sawmills in North Gwillimbury Township. All three sawmills are operating in the 4th Concession (between Woodbine & Warden Avenues) under water power provided by the Maskinonge River. Combined, they produce 350 000 feet of lumber and two of the three are in operation 6 months of the year, with the third only operating for 2 months, due to the “smallness of the stream”.



This (1851/1852 Census for the Province of Canada) description of James Pollock's sawmill states that it was erected in 1843 at a cost of £130. The image is from Library and Archives Canada.